



CHAIRMAN'S FEBRUARY MESSAGE

Gong Xi Fa Cai! It doesn't seem so long ago when we were celebrating Christmas and New Year, when Chinese New Year is now upon us. 14 January 2020 was a particularly significant date for the Branch, as we celebrated our 10th Anniversary. Credit must go to the pioneers who were instrumental in setting up the Branch, namely Richard Tan, Rajan Menon, Christopher Lau, Jayems Dhingra, Tan Liam Beng, David Shuttleworth and Matt Wills.

The Branch's training programme kicked off in full swing with the first tutorial for Module 4 – Award Writing held on 7 January 2020. A total of 34 candidates from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia are attending the course which culminates in the Award Writing Examination on 29 May 2020. It is my privilege to be the Course Director as well as tutor for the first tutorial. This is the last Module 4 course we are running as the New Pathways Structure has come into effect. On 7 February, will be running the Introduction to International Arbitration Course, with Amanda Lees as the Course Director.

The Branch continues to collaborate with the arbitration community in the region. Our own board director Steven Lim and regional director Camilla Godman were tutors at the Introduction to International Arbitration Course in Hanoi. Members of the Branch have also been invited to conduct CI Arb courses in Brunei, Maldives and Sri Lanka in the coming months.

In terms of recent developments in the law, the Singapore Court of Appeal had to determine the proper law governing an arbitration clause in a contract for the sale of industrial gases. The Agreement was governed by the laws of the People's Republic of China and provided that "*disputes shall be finally submitted to the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) for arbitration in Shanghai, which will be conducted in accordance with its Arbitration Rules*". Overturning the High Court's decision, the Court of Appeal held that the seat of arbitration was Shanghai and the governing law of the arbitration agreement was PRC Law. The judgment can be found at [https://www.singaporelawwatch.sg/Portals/0/Docs/Judgments/2019/\[2019\]%20SGCA%2084.pdf](https://www.singaporelawwatch.sg/Portals/0/Docs/Judgments/2019/[2019]%20SGCA%2084.pdf)

If you have not already done so, do sign up for the Pub Quiz on 27 February organised by the Young Members Group. The event promises to be an enjoyable evening with teams pitting themselves for the grand prize of Capitaland Vouchers, a bottle of Champagne and of course bragging rights! So gather your team of 5 together and register at the following webpage <http://www.ciarb.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/CIArb-YMG-Pub-Quiz-Flyer-27-Feb-2020-Final.pdf>. Our thanks go to our generous sponsors, PWC and LCM.

Lastly, but by no means the least, do join me in congratulating our very own Sapna Janghiani, Vice Chair of the Branch, who was appointed QC in January. Well-deserved Sapna!

Paul Sandosham
Chairman